CALFED Bay-Delta Program Project Information Form

Watershed Program - Full Proposal Cover Sheet

Attach to the cover of full proposal. All applicants must fill out this Information Form for their proposal. Failure to answer these questions and include them with the application will result in the application being considered nonresponsive and not considered for funding.

1. Full Proposal Title: ***Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy Rangeland and Riparian Management Program***
   Concept Proposal Title/Number: *Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy Rangeland and Riparian Management Program* - **0049**
   Applicant: Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy
   Applicant Contact: Bill Berens, President
   Applicant Mailing Address: P. O. Box 307, Vina, CA 96092
   Applicant Telephone: (530) 891-8638 Applicant Fax: (530) 891-8636 Applicant Email: DCWCdianne@shocking.com
   Fiscal Agent Name (if different from above):
   Fiscal Agent Mailing Address:
   Fiscal Agent Telephone:
   Fiscal Agent Email:

2. Type of Project: Indicate the primary topic for which you are applying (check only one)

XX Assessment	_____Monitoring
_____Capacity Building	_____Outreach
_____Education	_____Planning
_____Implementation	_____Research

3. Type of Applicant:

_____Academic Institution/University	XX Non-Profit
_____Federal Agency	_____Private party
_____Joint Venture	_____State Agency
_____Local Government	_____Tribe or Tribal Government

4. Location (including County): Tehama

   What major watershed is the project primarily located in:
   _____Klamath River (Coast and Cascade Ranges)
   XX Sacramento River (Coast, Cascade and Sierra Ranges)
   _____San Joaquin River (Coast and Sierra Ranges)
   _____Bay-Delta (Coast and Sierra Ranges)
   _____Southern CA (Coast and Sierra Ranges)
   _____Tulare Basin (Coast, Sierra and Tehachapi Ranges)

5. Amount of funding requested: **$ 230,000**
   Cost share/in-kind partners? XX Yes _____No
   Identify partners and amount contributed by each:

   Agency Personnel $ 10,000

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Participating Ranchers $ 10,000

6. Have you received funding from CALFED before? XX Yes _____No
   If yes, identify project title and source of funds:
   Deer Creek Watershed Phase 2 Project $196,554
   Source of Funds: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

1. The truthfulness of all representations in their proposal
2. The individual signing this form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if the applicant is an entity or an organization)
3. The person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the Watershed Program Proposal Solicitation Package and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent provided in the Proposal Solicitation Package.

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy

_____

Dianne Gaumer, Executive Director

1. Describe your project's underlying assumptions, expected outcomes, timetable for completion, and general methodology or process.

Underlying Assumptions: There are 40,000,000 acres of rangeland in California, with 20,000,000 of these acres in private ownership -- but this privately owned critical half provides 90 percent of the forage base. Most of this acreage is located at strategic mid-level elevations between California's upper elevation snowpack--the State's primary water supply source--and lower elevation urban and agricultural users in valley and coastal areas. Over 9,000 miles of waterways drain the area. California's major water supply reservoirs are located here, and eight of the State's major drainage basins are dominated by commonly grazed vegetation. Water quality problems include nutrients and pathogens, erosion and sedimentation. As riparian vegetation has been stripped from their edges, streams that once could depend on riparian vegetation to keep them cool and clean have become degraded, with trampled, collapsing banks and high water temperatures. Fishery habitat has been compromised by sedimentation and high water temperatures.

Expected Outcomes: In 1999, a "Ranch Water Quality Planning Short Course" was presented and attended by many watershed ranchers. However, follow through in completing the actual Ranch Plan document has become a bottleneck to the full implementation of Tier 1 of the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan (State Water Resources Control Board) and Strategy No. 5 of the Deer Creek Watershed Management Plan. Local ranchers are very willing to participate in this documentation for their operations, but find it difficult to "get started" on developing their Ranch Plans and, also find it difficult to devote the time to accumulating the pertinent data and carrying out rangeland assessments required to complete their plans. There is a need to give technical assistance to the ranchers in completing a "recognized" Ranch Plan that will result in full implementation of a water quality management program for their ranches.

Insufficient data to document past and present livestock grazing impacts is a major problem faced by private rangeland owners and managers. The rancher is at a disadvantage when he cannot quantify past grazing use, ecological conditions, improvement practices and their long-term benefits, and other indicators of good management especially in regard to water quality concerns. Providing assistance to the rancher in data collection and management, together with on-the-ground assessment, will facilitate the preparation and development of each ranch management plan. Additionally, there is a need to furnish ranchers with support for on-going monitoring of resources and activities on their land that will serve as a tool to evaluate management practices that may impact beneficial uses and water quality. This focused program is intended to provide the technical and personalized support to compile and complete the desired components of a Ranch Plan and a monitoring program for each ranch property in the Deer Creek watershed.

With the assistance of agricultural specialists, Resources West and environmental specialists, Sage Associates, a Ranch Plan will be developed and tailored to the special needs of each ranch within the project area. Other resource agency specialists (i.e., U.C. Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, California State University, Chico, California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Prevention and Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game) will provide additional technical expertise, in the areas of grasslands management, soil erosion, GIS mapping, and vegetation management. This valuable technical assistance will help the rancher assess the existing conditions of the ranchlands for possible improvements and protections against present or potential sources of contaminated runoff. Site-specific consultation will be provided to the ranchers on the landscape to survey and discuss grazing and livestock management practices, alternative land treatments, structural improvements, and a monitoring plan. Historically durable barbed-wire construction is selected for fencing along the riparian corridor to enhance riverine processes. This project will also serve as a demonstration for other locally directed watershed programs on procedures for completing comprehensive ranch assessment and Ranch Plans for their watersheds.

Timetable for Completion: This project is scheduled for completion by 00/00/00. Since field work is essential to this project, the timetable for completion of tasks will be formulated around the seasons of the year. Utilization of grazing lands in the lower foothills of the Deer Creek watershed is during the months of November through May. From June to October, the livestock are transported in most cases by trucks to mountain pastures for summer and fall grazing. Landowner contact and discussions will be held primarily in the winter months and field reconnaissance will be conducted during the spring, summer and fall. See the Budget section for detailed schedule for task completion.

General Methodology and Process: This project is designed to provide technical assistance for Deer Creek ranchers in the preparation and completion of individual Ranch Plans for 40,000 acres of rangelands within the Deer Creek Watershed. The Ranch Plans will assess existing conditions, develop economically achievable management measures, and establish a ranch-monitoring program for each ranch that will contribute to the prevention or control of erosion and sedimentation of surface waters and improve aquatic/terrestrial habitat within the project area.

With the assistance of agricultural specialists, Resources West and environmental specialists, Sage Associates, a Ranch Plan will be developed and tailored to the special needs of each ranch within the project area. Other resource agency specialists (i.e., U.C. Davis Ag Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, California State University, Chico, California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Prevention and Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game) will provide additional technical expertise, in the areas of grasslands management, soil erosion, GIS mapping, and vegetation management. This valuable technical assistance will help the rancher assess the existing conditions of the ranchlands for possible improvements and protections against present or potential sources of contaminated runoff. Site-specific consultation will be provided to the ranchers on the landscape to survey and discuss grazing and livestock management practices, alternative land treatments, structural improvements, and a monitoring plan. This project will also serve as a demonstration for other locally directed watershed programs on procedures for completing comprehensive ranch assessment and Ranch Plans for their watersheds.

The Ranch Plans will fulfill Tier 1 of the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan and comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The project is part of the implementation of the Deer Creek Watershed Management Strategy. This project will fulfill Strategy No. 5 - Manage Rangeland for Multiple Resource Protection and Enhancement, Including Forage for Livestock, Wildlife and Propagation of Oak Woodlands. Recommendation 5A states: With the assistance from U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension's Rangeland Monitoring Program, encourage ranchers within the watershed to design grazing strategies and monitoring plans for their land.

2. Describe your qualifications and readiness to implement the proposed project.

a. Describe the level of institutional structure, ability and experience to administer funds and conduct the project. Identify the fiscal agent responsible for handling the funds.

DCWC will provide fiscal management and administrative support for this project.

b. Describe technical support available (including support needed for environmental compliance and permitting) to begin and complete the project in a timely manner. DCWC will be assisted by the following individuals and agencies in conducting its work under this grant:

Resources West: Project coordination and facilitation will be provided by Jerry Hemsted. Mr. Hemsted is an agricultural specialist with a life-time background in the cattle industry. As a fifth generation Tehama County resident and local ranchers, Mr. Hemsted has an education in agricultural business and animal science. He has just served as President for the California Cattlemen's Association and has been very active in water quality, livestock management and industry economics for many years. Mr. Hemsted also serves on the Land Use Committee at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, headquartered in Denver, CO. The long-time knowledge of the watershed rangelands, in addition to the close association with local cattlemen, provides a high level of trust with ranchers that the program will not be associated with adverse ramifications by agreeing to such a program.

Sage Associates: Technical support for this project is provided by Dr. Orrin Sage of Sage Associates, Agricultural Consultants and by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office in the region. Dr. Orrin Sage will prepare the Ranch Plans that will identify existing agricultural and resource conditions. The Plans will recommend infrastructure and operational changes to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and to work with landowners on long-term beneficial changes for both agriculture and habitat values. Dr. Sage has prepared Ranch Plans for over 20 major California ranches, including the Romero and Simon Newman ranches in central California, and in the Arroyo Pasajero watershed (Fresno and Kings Counties). He works closely with Resource Conservation Districts and with NRCS to implement practices that meet or exceed WHIP and EQIP practice requirements at the NEPA level. He is a State of California Board of Forestry-certified Rangeland Manager, and an American Society of Agronomy Certified Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist. Dr. Sage has a PhD in Geology from the University of California, and over 25 years of experience working with public agencies, private landowners, ranchers and conservation organizations in the preparation of environmental studies, agricultural suitability assessments, grazing plans, development of BMPs, erosion control/restoration plans, storm-water prevention plans, and mitigation monitoring.

NRCS: Expert advise and technical help in the areas of soil erosion, sediment control, streambank stabilization, water quality improvement and habitat improvements will be provided by this federal agency. NRCS has substantial field experience in working with local ranchers and landowners and has built relationships of trust and acceptability.

U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension – Farm Advisor: Rangeland Monitoring Program has and will continue to provide valuable information on grazing strategies and review of monitoring plans. Once this project is completed the ranchers are poised to begin implementation of identified action that will be value and benefit to the rangelands and the environment. NRCS will then fulfill the role of lead agency to complete environmental documentation, provide technical assistance and oversight.

California Dept. of Fish & Game (DFG): The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will be assisting in the program by contributing valuable data and expertise in riparian and upland habitat improvement and fishery issues. Deer Creek is a major spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish species. During the future implementation stage of this program, DFG will provide technical expertise, project review and issue any necessary 1603 permits.

c. List of previous projects of this type you or your partners have implemented, funded either by CALFED or other programs.

Through the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy has been funded to complete a Watershed Planning Process that included a Fire Management Plan, a Hwy. 32 Contingency Spill Plan and a series of Rangeland Water Quality Short Course Workshops with training provided by U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension

3. Provide a completed budget cost sheet and describe the basis for determining project costs, including comparisons with other similar projects, salary comparisons, and other listed costs. Include all costs of environmental compliance, such as CEQA and/or NEPA, and permits. Describe how the approach to achieving the stated goals of the project demonstrates an effective cost relative to its anticipated benefits.

Basis for Determining Project Costs / Comparisons with other similar projects / Cost comparisons

The methods used to determine the budget for project management are based on costs and experience from previous planning projects conducted by the DCWC. To date, the DCWC has completed the following comprehensive watershed plans: (1) The Deer Creek Watershed Management Plan; (2) A Fire Management Strategy; and, (3) A Hwy 32 Contingency Spill Plan.

Service Contracts: $ 152,585

The methods used to determine the cost of riparian fencing are based on the standard, well-constructed fence that is appropriate for the geology of the Deer Creek soils and acceptable to ranchers to control cattle. Fencing will be constructed utilizing steel t-posts set 12 feet apart with five wires (2-point barbed wire) running the length of the fence. Braces will be constructed as needed and gates placed at regular intervals. Fencing was priced at $2.25 per lineal foot (15,555 lineal feet X $2.25 = $35,000

Service Contracts: $ 35,000

Demonstration of cost relative to anticipated benefits

The DCWC program intends to implement low-cost and low-tech solutions to achieve its goals of reducing flooding and sedimentation, improving rangeland conditions and increasing infiltration, decreasing riparian habitat damage, and improving habitat values. The costs associated with reduced erosion damage and water quality degradation by improving watershed conditions is the least expensive way to achieve these goals. Both landowners and the watershed benefit by implementation of BMPs in the watershed. Over time, better rangeland management will reduce flooding, reduce siltation, improve water quality and fish habitat, and extend the useful lifetime of existing flood control and flood management structures that are very expensive to install or replace.

The cost s associated with rangeland improvements as envisioned in this program are minimal, and involve perhaps a few hundred dollars per acre for fencing, water troughs, and other low-tech ways of making better use of rangeland for grazing. This compares very favorably to large-scale, intrusive measures such as dams, silt and debris basins, channelization and other flood control and silt control structures. A small amount of money put into rangeland improvements will, over time, result in substantial cost savings and improved watershed functioning.

4. Describe the technical feasibility of the proposed project.

a. Describe any similarity to previously implemented successful projects in the community or elsewhere.

To date, many ranchers have willing taken the Water Quality Short Course conducted by U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension. However, only a handful of these participating ranchers have ever followed through in completing the volunteer Ranch Plans suggested in the Short Course. Upon completion of this project, it is anticipated that all the private rangelands within a sizeable California watershed will be under a Ranch Plan. There is only one area in the state that has initiated a watershed-wide approach to preparing Ranch Plans for every private rangeland in a large landscape area. (Arroyo Pasajero Watershed in Fresno and Kings Counties)

b. If the project proposed a new approach or new method with a high likelihood of adding new knowledge and/or techniques, or with the potential to fill identified gaps in existing knowledge, describe how it will do so, and what monitoring components will provide substantiation of results.

The "new" approach taken by this project is based on a landowner-driven incentive to address water quality issues that will lead to watershed improvements. This "self-determined" effort is likely to really see change take place at a watershed level. Since these changes will be accepted and embraced by landowners who control vast landscapes of a single watershed.

This landowner-driven process will help ensure that ranchers and farmers will share the cost (through sweat equity, labor and equipment) to make sure changes do take place and watershed health is improved. Together with improved watershed health, the economics of ranching and grazing are also improved that will promote a more stabilized segment of Tehama County economics.

The monitoring program will be utilized as a "check-up" on the condition of rangelands to assess the productivity and stability of the resource base. The monitoring information will be used in two ways. The first is **point-in-time comparisons,** which are used to evaluate annual effects of grazing management within and between geographical areas. The second type is trend monitoring, which is used to trace changes over time. As records accumulate, trends in the conditions of rangelands become more apparent. Such trends may illustrate the success of grazing management, or signal the need to change management practices. The principal of the program is to establish a simple, durable common-sense monitoring program that documents long-term land stewardship. With time, the rancher will have the essential information to adaptively manage his rangelands for both the environment and economic productivity.

c. Explain how the finished project will be maintained as necessary, and to what degree it may require continued funding from outside the community.

This approach is not only based on natural resource enhancement but economic productivity. It is anticipated that the participating ranchers will get a glimpse of the increased opportunities for economic sustainability by increasing the stability of the environment. This action is itself is self-perpetuating. In addition, there may be the opportunity to promote a product that can "brag" on being produced in a environmentally compatible surrounding. Once the Ranch Plans are in place and monitoring is being conducted, the rancher will have no need for outside assistance. However, once the assessments have been conducted, structural "fixes" on the ranch may begin to be prioritized. Outside funding would be sought to complement the rancher's attempt to improve his land.

5. Describe how the monitoring component of the project will help determine the effectiveness of project implementation and assist the project proponent and CALFED with adaptive management processes.

a. Identify performance measures appropriate for the stated goals and objectives of this project.

The goal of this project is to prepare Ranch Plans for the private grazing lands within the Deer Creek Watershed. This activity involves reconnaissance-level visits to each ranch participating in the project to conduct science-based assessment and evaluation of the productivity and stability of the grasslands, habitat quality and soil conditions. Observations will be recorded by photo-documentation and field notes will include adequate descriptions of grazing management practices or treatments, study designs and pre-treatment data. Residual dry matter (RDM) measurements will be conducted by the currently accepted collection and measurement standards assisted by UC Davis Cooperative Extension.

Performance measures that determine success of this project are benchmarked when the following tasks have been successfully completed:

Task 1: Assemble Technical/Scientific Review Team
Task 2: Prepare mapping and reference materials.
Task 3: Compile existing data concerning natural occurrence on project lands.
Task 4: Conduct ranch visits to assess natural resource occurrences and ranch management practices.
Task 5: Prepare Monitoring Plans
Task 6: Prepare / Technically Review / Finalize Ranch Plans
Task 7: Reporting and Presentations
Task 8: Construct Riparian Fencing

b. Describe how this project will coordinate with and support other local and regional monitoring efforts.

This project will coordinate with the California Dept. of Water Resources (DWR), Northern District Office, Water Quality Division and the U.S. Forest Service, Lassen National Forest (USFS). DWR has conducted a two-year comprehensive monitoring program on Deer Creek to establish baseline data. The program monitored for metals, nutrients, bethic macroinvertebrates, pesticides, pathogens, fish tissue analysis – bio-accumulation for organic contaminants, temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. In cooperation with this project, DWR hopes to continue another two-year monitoring program to evaluate any change to the system after Ranch Plans begin implementation. This information will be incorporated into Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game stream inventories, CALFED CMARP Data and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data collection. Deer Creek is listed as an indicator stream for USGS.

c. Provide a description of any citizen monitoring programs that will be part of this project.

The Ranch Plans will develop a monitoring plan for each individual rancher to carry out.

d. What monitoring protocols will be used, and are they widely accepted as standard protocols.

The monitoring protocols established by the U.C. Cooperative Extension to conduct rangeland monitoring have been peer reviewed and given an endorsement by the State Water Resources Control Board, Water Quality Division, to be acceptable and effective methods to assess rangeland conditions.

e. Describe how the type and manner of data collection and analysis will be useful for informing local decision making.

The Ranch Plans and monitoring program will systematically record observations of processes or activities to detect changes over time and will include the following assessments: (1) record the condition of the range; (2) document the effect of livestock grazing on key areas; (3) determine the effectiveness of management practices; and, (4) measure a trend toward a desired condition. This information becomes extremely valuable during times of severe climatic changes and natural occurrences (i.e., drought, fire, flood, severe cold and snow, etc.) when neighbors must pull together sustain their livelihoods.

6. If this project is to develop specific watershed conservation, maintenance or restoration actions, describe the scientific basis for the action(s) described in the proposal. Include the following:

a. Any assessment of watershed condition(s) that has already been developed by you or others.

A watershed assessment was conducted by the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy beginning in 1996 and resulted in an Existing Conditions Report of the entire watershed (200 sq. miles). DFG has conducted extensive surveys of salmon rearing pools and critical habitat areas the length of the stream. DWR has conducted a two-year state-of-the-art water quality monitoring program on the entire length of Deer Crek and on associated sub-tributaries to the stream.

After extensive data was gathered, a Watershed Management Strategy was developed to prioritize enhancement and restoration activities in the watershed. This Strategy recommends the "Develop or refinement of watershed assessments and plans" and the "Design, development and implementation of specific watershed conservation maintenance and restoration actions" by implementing a part of the Deer Creek Watershed Management Strategy and Strategy No. 5 - Manage Rangeland for Multiple Resource Protection and Enhancement, Including Forage for Livestock, Wildlife and Propagation of Oak Woodlands. Recommendation 5A states: With the assistance from U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension's Rangeland Monitoring Program, encourage ranchers within the watershed to design grazing strategies and monitoring plans for their land.

b. Previous assessment(s) used to establish your project goals and objectives, or to inform the basic assumptions of your proposal.

Previous assessments of other livestock operations in on other rangelands in the state have increased the awareness of appropriate goals and objectives for this project and provided enough information to formulate basic assumptions about a new grazing management activities and techniques. Ranchers who conducted these assessments are available to provide detailed scenarios of past management activities and restoration techniques.

c. A description of the scientific assumptions used to develop the project goals, objectives and proposed actions, and the degree to which those assumptions are widely accepted (both in the science community as a whole, and in the watershed community).

Scientific assumptions used to develop project goals include reliance on the information developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), NRCS, and DFG concerning best management practices that have long been implemented through such programs as the WHIP and EQIP. These NRCS programs focus on improving rangeland and riparian habitat conditions (seasonal grazing or no grazing), by utilizing rotational grazing on rangelands, and by promoting consistent grassland measurements by utilizing residual dry matter standards that are fully accepted by NRCS and BLM. The programs also promote periodic water quality testing for siltation, according to standardized water quality testing methods, and photo monitoring for a general year-to-year assessment of rangeland health. Each year will have different rainfall and weather conditions. The techniques that are science-based for assessing rangeland health allow for a better “bad-year” cushion against overgrazing.

The degree of acceptance by both the scientific and watershed community is high for BMPs that both improve rangeland conditions and result in better economic returns for ranchers. Over time, rangeland improvements contribute to a more stable environment allow a greater margin during times of drought, and in good years result in better weight gains for cattle. Using cattle as a management tool for fire protection, and making sure that grazing in riparian corridors is seasonal and not year-round are ways that benefit and enhance such habitats.

d. A discussion of how the proposed actions are (are not) consistent with the scientific assumptions and previous assessments completed in the watershed.

The Deer Creek Watershed Plan has substantial information on the existing conditions of the watershed overall. Further, each individual Ranch Plan for each property will provide a baseline against which future improvements (or problems) will be measured. Monitoring plans are built into each Ranch plan to ensure that changes will be tracked. It is anticipated that photo-monitoring points will be established at locations around each ranch to show year-to-year changes. The information will provide a good database for each ranch, over time, and also contribute to a better knowledge of how such management practices contribute to improve overall watershed and riparian conditions.

d. A description of what baseline knowledge was used to support the management actions described in the proposal, or the likelihood that the management actions will generate more robust baseline knowledge.

The Arrroyo Pasajero CRMP program is a "pilot program" that has about 16 completed Ranch and Farm Plans that are actively being implemented by ranchers and farmers in the central Valley area. The approach for Deer Creek Ranch Plans and overall watershed planning is being adapted from the successful implementation of that program. The same range of management actions is being implemented and is already resulting in improved forage, improved riparian corridor health, reduced bank erosion and downstream siltation. Their very active and supportive landowner group and its watershed planning progress and program will serve as a prototype for the Deer Creek watershed program.

Approximately $450,000 is allocated for infrastructure improvements in this program, over about 140,000 acres of land. About $130,000 has already been spent, and changes in grazing management practices are already showing substantially improved rangeland conditions on particpating ranches. The information on what works and what does not work will be gathered and used to direct any needed changes in the Arroyo Pasajero program, and can be adapted for the Deer Creek Watershed program as appropriate.

7. A. How will the proposal address multiple CALFED objectives (see Section I) in an integrated fashion, with emphasis on water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem quality, and levee stability objectives CALFED has established for Stage 1 of the program?

Water Quality: "The vision for the CALFED Water Quality Program is to create water quality conditions that fully support a healthy and diverse ecosystem and the multiplicity of human uses of the waters."

Ecosystem Quality:

B. Explain how the proposal will help define and illustrate relationships between watershed processes (including human elements), watershed management, and the primary goals and objectives of the CALFED (Section I).

The "overarching goal of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to restore ecological health and improve water management by working with the community at a watershed level. " This program will fulfill this goal by actively engaging private lands associated with livestock grazing in addressing water quality issues. The essence of this program is the strong tie between the responses by the land to the land-use practices that are implemented by the ranchers. It is a goal of the project to strengthen the positive aspects of water quality management and the added value of productivity and to protect the quality of water coming from and passing through the rangelands of the Deer Creek watershed.

C. Identify a lead agency for environmental compliance, such as CEQA or NEPA. Describe the program's strategy and timetable on environmental compliance.

CEQA and NEPA are not required for this evaluation and planning process. However, later when individual Ranch Plans are implemented, there will be consistency determinations made with existing NRCS and RCD procedures so that environmental compliance is ensured. Also, we will be possibly seeking California Fish and Game 1603 permits on some properties, and will adhere to any compliance needs they specify.

8. Describe any other important aspects of your program that you could not address in the above items, and that you feel are critical to fully describing your project.

This Program will serve as a demonstration for other locally directed watershed programs on procedures for completing comprehensive ranch assessments and ranch plans by facilitating collection of pertinent data and providing agricultural expertise to assist each rancher in developing, choosing and implementing best management practices. By developing a "system of practices" that can be followed and, by establishing contacts for focused and coordinated technical expertise, ranchers in other areas, regions or states can follow the same steps to accomplish their own ranch plans.

As a partner with this watershed Program, The Nature Conservancy will also assist in establishing a "Grass Bank" by utilizing their Vina Plains property, for Deer Creek ranchers to graze while they may be utilizing different range management strategies to improve their grasslands.

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy Rangeland and Riparian Management Program										
CALFED WATERSHED PROGRAM BUDGET AND PROJECT SUMMARY										
Task Description	Labor Rate	Hours	Total Labor	Supplies	Travel	Materials	Subcontract	Match	CALFED	Total
Task 1: Coordinate Technical Team	55	1000	$55,000		$5,000		$12,500	$60,000	$12,500	$72,500
Task 2: Mapping	55	1000	$55,000		$5,000		$44,000	$0	$104,000	$104,000
Task 3: Compile Data	55	1000	$55,000		$5,000		$80,000	$75,000	$65,000	$140,000
Task 4: Ranch Visits							$62,000	$0	$62,000	$62,000
Task 5: Prepare Monitoring Plans										
Task 6: Review/Finalize Ranch Plans										
Task 7: Reporting and Presentations	15	2000	$30,000	$21,000		$21,000	$211,100	$42,000	$241,100	$283,100
Indirect Overhead/Contingencies									$41,500	$41,500
TOTAL			$195,000	$21,000	$15,000		$409,600	$177,000	$526,100	$703,100
Notes to Project Summary Budget:										

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy Rangeland and Riparian Management Program				
CALFED WATERSHED PROGRAM BUDGET AND PROJECT SUMMARY				
Task Description	Completion Date	Match	CALFED Funds	Total
Task 1: Coordinate Technical/Scientific Support Team	12/30/03	$10,000	$30,000	$40,000
Task Products: Meeting Minutes and Outreach Document				
Success Criteria: Full participation by invitees to oversee project				
Task 2: Mapping and Reference Materials	06/30/03		$20,000	$20,000
2a. GIS Mapping				
2b. Deer Creek Watershed Grasses and Invasive Weeds Reference Guide				
Task Products: GIS mapping of the project area – Invasive Weeds Reference Guide				
Success Criteria: Complete of deliverables				
Task 3: Compile Data – Natural Resource Inventory of Project Area	12/31/02			$18,000
Task Products: Reference Document				
Success Criteria: Peer reviewed and endorsed Reference Document				
Task 4: Ranch Visits / Assess Natural Resource Occurrences – Ranch Management Practices	12/31/02	$10,000	$45,000	$55,000
Task Products: Ranch Management Practices Summaries				
Success Criteria: Thorough ranch assessment and Rancher collaboration in preparing Summaries				
Task 5: Prepare Monitoring Plans			$19,000	$19,000
Task Products: Ranch Monitoring Plans	09/30/03			
Success Criteria: Rancher collaboration in determining appropriate monitoring sites				
Task 6: Prepare/Technical Review/Finalize Ranch Plans				

Task Products: Ranch Plans				$35,000
Success Criteria: Rancher approval of Ranch Plans				
Task 7: Reporting and Presentations	12/31/03		$10,000	$10,000
4a. Quarterly Progress Reports (Progress reports on implementation, financial status, products completed)				
4b. Draft Final Report (Summary of implementation. Deliveries, and financial status)				
4c. Final Report (Report incorporating comments from Contract Manager)				
4d. Presentations (Summary presentation to CALFED)				
Task Products: Quarterly and final report; Presentation to CALFED				
Success Criteria: Submission of reports and presentation to CALFED				
Task 8: Construct Fencing				
7a: Build 3.1 miles of fencing @ $2.00/foot	12/31/03		$35,000	$35,000
Task Products: Completed Riparian Fencing				
Success Criteria: Completed Riparian Fencing				
Task Products: Quarterly and final report; Presentation to CALFED				
Success Criteria: Submission of reports and presentation to CALFED				
TOTAL		$20,000	$212,000	$232,000